



## Prayer and Wishes Chapter 6 (Prayer)

### Questions for discussion

#### 1. Are we bound by unseen forces?

Something else is out there. We feel it. We just know. Some argue it's God. Others say it's natural. What is it?

*"Prayer beats to a totally different drum. Yet, I know we struggle with the difference. Is it possible to believe a wish is to someone? I could ask you who, but the answers would be different across the board. Each person has a particular thing or entity they wish too. Many believe there is a cosmic energy out there. A force seems real. We have déjà vu and Murphy's law. There is intuition and that nagging feeling. We are seemingly bound together by something we cannot see." Chapter 6, p, 3*

#### 2. Prayer equalizes people.

It's interesting that well off people rise in a church. They are usually in positions of leadership. Why? It's because they run business. Is church a business? Yet, People can pray no matter who they are. God does not give preference. I suspect he gives more time to the needy than the lofty.

*"We forget that God is big on prayer too. God may have distance between clean and unclean, yet prayer equalizes that. It's sad that some try and help God make distance. Were all God's people. In Mark 10 they asked Jesus about divorce. He famously said "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." God knows we want to separate, categorize, and segregate. We always have. Prayer busts that. It grinds against that." Chapter 6, p, 6*

#### 3. We all can pray.

People say you can't belong. They tell you to join somewhere else. Yet, they can never tell you that you can't pray. Oh, they can try. God hears the heart far more often than our words. People can't chain our hearts.

*"If we say that we want to pray, and someone says you can't, then what? It's a shame when that happens. There is good news. That person can say you can't all they want. You can pray because we are free to do so. They can say no. yet, God listens, and God hears. It does not matter what anyone else says. Prayer is personal. Prayer is private. I could list hundreds of verses saying prayer is private. Jesus went alone to pray. Jesus chastised the religious for praying in public. Mary pondered things of God in her heart. She was probably praying. Don't let anyone ever tell you can't pray." Chapter 6, p,7*

#### 4. Prayer is individual and communal.



## Prayer and Wishes Chapter 6 (Prayer)

Prayer should be private. You can't boast in prayer. Sure, you could ask someone to pray for you but God really wants your heart. That said, there is something powerful when more than one pray together.

*"I have heard stories of the whole community rising up and rebuilding a house or barn. People have banded together for a cause like a petition or food bank. I hear these loud mouth preachers spouting on and on about the power of the Spirit and prayer. Yet, it's a strong community that get's things done. Not prayer? Oh no, prayer is pivotal. How about a community that prays together stays together? They could accomplish anything in prayer. Why? It's a single mind doing what's best for all."* Chapter 6, p, 10

### 5. Is your goodness, good for prayer?

You can't buy a prayer. There is nothing you can say or do to win favor. It might get Gods attention, but not his favor. Why? Because God blesses when we less deserve or need it.

*"I love seeing prayer answered. Yet, it's not a present. It's not a power we used rightly. How often do people say their prayer was answered directly because they are in right standing with God. In Luke 18:19 Jesus says "only God the Father is good." That is astounding if Jesus is sinless, holy, and God himself. Prayer and our relationship with God is solely based on our respect of him. Jesus got that. Do you?"* Chapter 6, p, 12

### 6. Prayer can do so much more than a wish.

Josephs Brothers tried to lose Joseph. Josephs prayer reunited them all. Prayer always helps rather than hinder.

*"You can wish. We all do. The word wish is more than just a saying or figure of speech. It's has the ability to change our desires. A wish can be reflective and make us patient. Yet, prayer moves mountains. It fosters deep relationships when we pray for each other's needs. Prayer can be meant for evil. Joseph in Genesis 50 got it right. He was talking to his brothers and said "you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." We can make prayer like a wish. Make it for our own use. God will take that prayer and change people's hearts. I wish can't do that."* Chapter 6, p, 13